a 192 million dollars financial arrangement with a consortium of European countries for the acquisition of more Air Bus (A 320) air crafts; and

(b) the terms and conditions under which the arrangements has been made?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The main terms and conditions are given in the Statement.

Statement

Amount of Loan	:	US $ 192 million.
Rate of Interest	:	*(i) In respect of UK portion* LIBOR + 50 Basis Points.
		(ii) In respect of French Portion LIBOR + 55 Basis Points.
		(iii) In respect of German Portion Aircraft No. 1 to 4— 9.17% per annum
		Aircraft No. 5 to 6— 9.19% per annum
Repayment Terms	:	In 20 half yearly rental instalments commencing after six months from the delivery of each aircraft.
Guarantee	:	By Govt. of India to a maximum extent of 30% of the outstanding principal amount and 100% of the interest amount.

International Status to Ahmedabad Airport

489. SHRI RAJUBHAI A. PARMAR: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Ahmedabad (Gujarat) Airport is declared as an international airport;

(b) if so, the number of international flights that come in a week at this airport;

(c) whether it is also a fact that Government proposes to introduce some more flights from there; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) and (b) No, Sir. However, Air India operates two connecting flights a week from Ahmedabad to destinations abroad *via* Delhi and Bombay.

(c) No, Sir.

(b) Does Not arise.

Paucity of spare parts and maintenance items in Air India

490. SHRI S. AUSTIN: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Air India management had set up a Committee to probe into the acute paucity of spares and other rotable aircraft maintenance items and was assigned in the task to carry out physical inventory of spares for their availability and movement for the past eight years;

(b) if so, its findings and action taken thereon;

(c) whether the Committee found that spares worth rupees 11 crores were untraceable and that spares and maintenance items worth over rupees 20 crores had not been used for over two years;

(d) if so, the details thereof and action taken in this regard; and

(e) the new norms fixed in this regard and the action taken against those found guilty?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (e) The final report of the Committee is awaited.

Non-payment of Customs Duty by Air Taxi Operators

491. SHRI KAMAL MORARKA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that air-taxi operators have brought in aircraft without payment of customs duty;

(b) what action is being taken against them in this regard; and

(c) whether the Ministry and DGCA would suspend permission granted to such operators till dues are cleared?